

**Appl. No.** : 09/228,325  
**Filed** : January 11, 1999

**I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A basketball backboard assembly sized and configured for playing the game of basketball comprising:

a backboard frame structure having a bonding surface;

an acrylic backboard having a bonding surface; and

a catalyzed elastomeric adhesive sandwiched between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface, wherein the elastomeric adhesive provides sufficient adhesion and flexibility to the acrylic backboard and frame structure bonding surface to be used in the game of basketball.

2. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1 ~~according to claim 1~~, wherein the elastomeric adhesive has a bond gap in the range from about 2 to 2.5 mm (0.08 to 0.1 inch).

3. (Cancelled)

**Please cancel Claim 4.**

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5. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1 ~~according to claim 1~~, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is a two-part catalyzed adhesive in which the two parts are combined in a ratio to provide a set time in the range from about 7 to 15 minutes.

6. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1 ~~according to claim 1~~, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is a two-part catalyzed adhesive in which the two parts are combined in a ratio to provide a set time in the range from about 5 minutes to 1 hour.

7. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1 ~~according to claim 1~~, further comprising one or more bond gap spacers located between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface to provide a defined bond gap.

8. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1 ~~according to claim 7~~, wherein the one or more bond gap spacers comprise spherical beads.

9. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the one or more bond gap spacers ~~according to claim 8, wherein the spherical beads~~ comprise glass microspheres.

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10. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the one or more bond gap spacers comprise according to claim 9, wherein the glass microspheres that have a diameter in the range from about 2 to 2.5 mm (0.08 to 0.1 inch).

11. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1 according to claim 1, wherein the backboard frame structure is constructed from metal.

12. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1 according to claim 1, wherein the backboard frame structure is painted metal.

13. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1 according to claim 1, wherein the backboard bonding surface contains a printed image.

14. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly sized and configured for playing the game of basketball comprising:

a metal backboard frame structure having a bonding surface;

an acrylic backboard having a bonding surface;

a catalyzed silicone adhesive sandwiched between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface, wherein the silicone adhesive is configured to provide a set time in the range from about 5 minutes to 1 hour, wherein the silicone adhesive provides sufficient adhesion and flexibility to the acrylic backboard and frame structure bonding surfaces to be

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used in the game of basketball; and

one or more bond gap spacers located between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface to provide the bond gap.

15. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 14 ~~according to claim 14~~, wherein the silicone adhesive is configured to provide a set time in the range from about 7 to 15 minutes.

16. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 14 ~~according to claim 14~~, wherein the one or more bond gap spacers comprise spherical beads.

17. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 14 ~~according to claim 16~~, wherein the one or more bond gap spacers ~~spherical beads~~ comprise glass microspheres.

18. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 14 ~~according to claim 17~~, wherein the one or more bond gap spacers ~~comprise~~ glass microspheres that have a diameter in the range from about 2 to 2.5 mm (0.08 to 0.1 inch).

Claims 19-43 (Cancelled).